

Applicant Name	Ronan, City of
Project Name	Ronan Wastewater System Improvements

Project Abstract

The City of Ronan's wastewater treatment system is comprised of gravity mains, force mains, four lift stations, aerated lagoons, and wetlands tertiary treatment. The wetlands discharge to surface water.

In July of 2004, the City of Ronan was issued an Administrative Order from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to install a disinfection system at the outfall of their wastewater wetlands cell before discharge to Crow Creek. Fecal coliform levels frequently exceed the system's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit levels. To comply with the order, the disinfection system must be operational by July 21, 2007.

The preferred alternative identified by the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) is to install an ultraviolet disinfection system for the wetlands discharge and to provide auxiliary power to the four lift stations in the collection system.

Disinfection of the wetlands effluent is essential to preserve groundwater and surface water resources. Fecal coliform levels in the effluent from the wetlands range from 1 to over 100,000 organisms/100ml and frequently exceed the NPDES permitted level of 200 org/100ml. Crow Creek is classified by Tribal Water Quality Standards as a B-1 water body (suitable for bathing, culinary activities, and drinking water with conventional treatment). Ultraviolet radiation disinfection will control the fecal coliform levels in the effluent.

This project will purchase and install auxiliary power to the lift stations. Currently, no alternative power source is available for emergency power outages. Without an auxiliary power source, sewage can back up and overflow low-lying manholes. Auxiliary power is essential to preservation of groundwater and surface water resources. If the lift stations or manholes were to overflow, sewage could enter Spring Creek and the shallow groundwater.